

**Estill County Refuse
AML Enhancement Project
Estill County**

Project Description

The proposed project (68.6 acres total) consists of removing an existing coal refuse pile and planting trees within the community of Calloway Crossing, in Estill County. The project area is located in the Panola Quadrangle at 37° 43' 28" latitude and -84° 0' 33" longitude (see the attached map). Existing runoff from the old coal refuse pile is a contributor to water pollution and off-site sedimentation in the Kentucky River. The refuse pile is also a potential fire hazard and a hazard to any ATV riders using the site. To drive to the project area, from Irvine go north on Route 89 for approximately 1.4 miles, then turn left (west) onto a public road and drive approximately 1.8 miles west to the project area.

The old coal refuse will be removed for processing and transported immediately east of the project site to one of two coal recovery plants owned by Bowie Refined Coal LLC (BRC). The plants are located within the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources permit # 833-9006.

The project site has been previously disturbed by coal mining operations, residential development, previous AML construction, and/or road construction. Trees larger than 5 inches diameter at breast height are currently within the project area and will require removal. No disturbance of any stream reach is planned. BRC will utilize the existing Rock Check Dams installed by AML, located at the southwest corner of the project area. Water from these structures will be treated as needed or as directed by DAML to maintain pH levels. Historically the site has not had any problems with maintaining acceptable water standards. Additionally BRC will maintain a berm, either by repairing the existing berm or creating a new berm around the area to direct drainage and divert runoff.

Once coal refuse has been removed from the area and final grading has begun, a diversion ditch will be constructed that will follow the natural drainage pattern of the watershed. Durable rock riprap basin energy dissipaters may be installed to minimize runoff velocity, reduce erosion or treat acid runoff. Any unmarketable refuse/ slurry will be stabilized on-site, buried, and covered with the best available non-toxic, non-combustible, on-site materials capable of supporting a diverse vegetative cover. After all refuse is removed, the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML) will have a contractor plant trees on the site. The tree planting work will be competitively bid and funded through normal AML program methods.

A Corps of Engineers Permit is not required for this reclamation project. A floodplain permit is not required. Access to the project area is pre-existing. An estimated 1,672,000 tons of coal will be sold from this area after processing.

Construction disturbances will be kept to a minimum through the use of a stringently formulated sediment and erosion control program, consisting of hay-bale silt checks and silt fences maintained throughout the life of the project, prompt re-vegetation using agricultural limestone, fertilizer, seed, netting and mulch for the areas disturbed by the project. All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. This construction activity will be conducted under the authority and supervision of the local public road authority and will consist of standard road construction practices appropriate to mitigate impacts to the local community from potential degraded road conditions in order to maintain public traffic safety.